

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/990,805

Examiner

Robert B. Davis

Applicant(s)

JOHNSON, DAVID M.

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1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-50.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. <u>0102</u> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art of record teach or suggest a shuttle blow molding machine comprising: an extruder head located at a parison-receiving station, a takeout mechanism located at an article-removal station, the parison-receiving station and the article-removal station being located at spaced positions along a horizontal workstation path; first and second groups of mold units, wherein each of the mold units has a carriage, clamp, mold, and blow pin assembly, the mold including a pair of mold halves located in the clamp with the mold being movable by the clamp between an open position, in which the mold halves are spaced from each other, and a closed position, in which the mold halves are mated together to define one or more mold cavities, the blow pin assembly being supported by the clamp and including one or more blow pins that are movable between a retracted position away from the mold and an inserted position in which the one or more blow pins are inserted into one or more corresponding holes within the mold to deliver pressurized gas to the one or more mold cavities, the clamp being mounted on the carriage with the carriage being movable in a direction transverse to the horizontal workstation path such that the mold can reciprocate between a retracted position, in which the mold is spaced from the workstation path, and an extended position, in which the mold is centered along the workstation path; the mold units within the first group being located in side-by-side relation adjacent each other and being movable as a group along a first path that is parallel to the workstation path, the mold units within the second group being located in side-by-side relation adjacent each other and being

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movable as a group along a second path that is parallel to the workstation path, with the first and second groups of mold units being located on opposite sides of the workstation path. The closest prior art (Japanese reference 2000313056A) teaches first and second trains of molds movable along rails (12, 12 and 13, 13) on bases (14, 15), wherein each of the molds (34a, 34b) is carried on a sub-base (24, 25, 26, 27) such that each mold is reciprocable between an extended position (sub-base 25 in figure 1) and a retracted position; however, the reference teaches only the parison receiving station along a central line of the apparatus as the article removing positions are shown on either side of the extruder when the molds are in the retracted position as shown in figures 7a, 7b.

In regards to claim 33, none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a shuttle blow molding machine comprising: m workstations spaced along a horizontal workstation path, the workstations including at least a parison-receiving station and an article-removal station; and first and second groups of mold units, wherein the first and second groups each have n mold units and are located on opposite sides of the workstation path, each of the mold units including a mold that is movable in a direction transverse to the workstation path such that the mold can reciprocate between a retracted position, in which the mold is spaced from the workstation path, and an extended position, in which the mold is centered along the workstation path; wherein each group of mold units indexes along a path parallel to the workstation path among at least $2(n-1)+m$ index positions. The closest prior art (WO 01/023164 A1) discloses three workstations (two article removing stations (45, 46) and a parison receiving station

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(26), but only three different index position for the mold units on either side of the horizontal workstation path.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert B. Davis whose telephone number is 703-308-2625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 703-308-0457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Robert B. Davis
Primary Examiner
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10/1/03